IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel withdrawn claims 18-20 without prejudice to a possible divisional application. **Please also add** new claims 21 – 26 as shown in the complete list of claims that is presented below.

1. (original) A method for distributing music over the internet, comprising the steps of:

(a) recognizing a plurality of musical compositions from a specimen provided by a person, by comparing a pattern derived from the specimen with patterns from a pattern library;

(b) sending information to identify the musical compositions in writing to the person over the internet;

(c) receiving a request from the person over the communication system for an audio preview of one of the musical compositions, which has been selected by the person;

(d) sending a corrupted version of some or all of the selected musical composition to the person over the internet;

(e) receiving a request from the person over the internet for the selected musical composition without corruption; and

(f) sending the selected musical composition without the corruption to the person,

wherein the pattern derived from the specimen comprises pitch and duration information.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the specimen is vocalized by the person.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising providing the person with a set of tempos to choose from and a set of keys to choose from before the person vocalizes the specimen.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the specimen is picked out by the person on a simulated musical instrument

5. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the specimen over the internet and then deriving the pattern from the specimen.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pattern derived from the specimen is received over the internet.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein step (f) is conducted over the internet.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the corrupted version sent in step (d) comprises a short-duration snippet of the musical composition.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the duration of the snippet is less than about 15 seconds.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the corrupted version sent in step (d) comprises a plurality of isolated, short-duration snippets of the musical composition.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the corrupted version sent in step (d) has noise superimposed on it.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the noise comprises a repeated ticking sound superimposed on the musical composition.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising securing payment for the musical composition without corruption before conducting step (f).

14. (original) A method for distributing music to a person over the internet, comprising the steps of:

(a) picking out a musical specimen on a simulated musical instrument, step (a) being conducted by the person;

(b) sending the specimen over the internet to a music distribution company;

(c) recognizing at least one candidate musical composition from the specimen, step (c) being conducted by the music distribution company;

(d) sending information to identify the at least candidate musical composition in writing to the person over the internet;

(e) selecting a musical composition from the at least one candidate musical composition, step (e) being conducted by the person;

(f) sending a request for an audio preview of the selected musical composition to the music distribution company over the internet;

(g) sending a corrupted version of some or all of the selected musical composition to the person over the internet; and

(h) sending the selected musical composition without corruption to the person over the internet.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the specimen comprises information identifying a sequence of notes picked out by the person in step (a).

16. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the specimen comprises information identifying a sequence of notes and the durations of the notes picked out by the person in step (a).

17. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein the simulated musical instrument comprises a member selected from the group consisting of an image of a musical keyboard, an actual musical keyboard, and a manually operable alpha-numeric keyboard.

Claims 18 – 20 (cancelled).

21. (new) A method for delivering a musical composition desired by a person who does not know the title of the desired musical composition, comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a specimen having information about at least a sequence of pitches characterizing the desired musical composition, the specimen being generated by the person while the person is at a first location;

(b) sending the specimen over a communication network to a second location that is remote from the first location;

(c) at the second location, identifying the desired musical composition by comparing a pattern derived from the specimen with patterns from a pattern library; and

(d) sending the desired musical composition to the person over the internet.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the communication network in step (b) is the internet.

23. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the desired musical composition that is identified in step (c) is one of a plurality of candidate compositions that are identified from the pattern derived from the specimen, and further comprising identifying the candidate compositions to the person, the desired composition being selected by the person from among the candidate compositions.

24. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the specimen additionally includes information about the duration of the pitches in the sequence.

25. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the specimen is vocalized by the person in step (a).

26. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the specimen is picked out by the person on a simulated musical instrument in step (a).